

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234045

NATO ALSO FOR USDEL MC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: FORCE PLANS FOR THE PERIOD 1974-78

REF: A. USNATO 5671; B. USNATO 5710; C. USNATO 5734

1. YOU SHOULD, IN CONSIDERING MCM-83-73 IN DPC (REFTEL C)
MAKE STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. QTE: MR. CHAIRMAN, WE HAVE A FEW COMMENTS ON
THE DOCUMENT WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION FOR RECORD,
AND WHICH MAY PERHAPS BE USEFUL IN CONNECTION WITH
PREPARATION OF NEXT YEAR'S ASSESSMENT:

(1) THERE ARE SEVERAL USEFUL SPECIFICATIONS IN THE
MILITARY COMMITTEE DOCUMENT. WE ARE PARTICULARLY
PLEASED TO NOTE THE SPECIFICATION IN PARA 12 OF A FEW
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CRITICAL DEFICIENCIES WHICH NATO NATIONS SHOULD REVIEW

AS A MATTER OF URGENCY. IN THIS CONNECTION, AT LAST
JUNE'S DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING THE US SECRETARY OF

DEFENSE SAID QTE THAT A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF THE
DEFICIENCIES AND ASSETS OF BOTH SIDES SHOULD NOT LEAD
US TO CONCLUDE THAT AN EFFECTIVE CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY
IS HOPELESS AND BEYOND OUR REACH. ON THE CONTRARY,
GIVEN CERTAIN BADLY NEEDED ACTIONS, IT IS WITHIN THE
CAPABILITY OF THIS ALLIANCE TO BUILD AN EFFECTIVE
CONVENTIONAL FORCE. WE MUST ALL BEAR IN MIND THAT,
HOWEVER IMPRESSIVE OUR BASIC INGREDIENTS MAY BE, WE
HAVE NOT REALIZED THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. IT IS TIME
THAT WE MOVE TO DO THIS. COMPLETION OF THE AD-70
PROGRAM IS OBVIOUSLY A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
AS WE DO SO, HOWEVER, WE MUST DECIDE ON THE LIST OF
CRITICAL ITEMS NEEDED DURING THE EARLY PHASES OF THE
CONFLICT AND SET OUR GOALS FOR SUCCESSIVE YEARS.
THERE ARE MANY CANDIDATES FOR THE LIST. UNQTE.
HE MENTIONED FOUR OF THEM: SHELTERS, AIRCRAFT
UTILIZATION, ANTI-TANK WEAPONS AND WAR RESERVE STOCKS.

(2) WE BELIEVE THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY
THE MC ARE GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVES
OF THE US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

(3) WITH REGARD TO THE CONCLUSION ON THE
WIDENING OF THE GAP BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT:
WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS SUCH A WIDENING GAP SHOULD BE
THE SUBJECT OF A CAREFUL ANALYSIS WHICH INCLUDES
ALL NATO FORCES LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE. IF A GAP
EXISTS AT ALL IT IS CLEARLY NOT FOR A LACK OF NATO
MEMBER COUNTRY RESOURCES.

(4) FINALLY, WE NOTE THAT THE RECENTLY COMMIS-
SIONED MC STUDY OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT CONVENTIONAL
FORCE CAPABILITIES IN WHICH THE MC WILL TAKE ACCOUNT
OF ALL FORCES WHICH MIGHT REASONABLY BE BROUGHT TO
BEAR BY EACH SIDE DURING A CONFLICT IN CENTRAL
EUROPE WILL REPRESENT A STEP FORWARD IN ASSURING THAT
NATO HAS A REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF OPPOSING FORCES.
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UNQTE.

2. AS REGARDS THE DRAFT REPORT TO MINISTERS ON 1974-78
FORCE PLANS (REFTEL A), YOU MAY ACCEPT THE REPORT,
CONTINGENT UPON MAKING OUR VIEWS, AS EXPRESSED ABOVE,
CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD DURING DPC CONSIDERATION OF
MCM-83-73.

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